

Remarks

Claims 1-7, 9-11, 13, 14, 16, and 17 are now pending in this application. Applicant has amended claims 1-7, 9, and 10, cancelled claims 8, 12, and 15, and present new claims 16 and 17 to clarify the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of this application.

The Examiner objected to the drawings as including views not labeled separately. Applicant submits herewith three sheets of corrected drawings including renumbered Figs. 4a, 4b, 5a, 5b, 8a, 8b, 8c, 9a, 9b, 9c, 9d, and 9e. Applicant has amended the brief description of the drawings and the specification to reflect the new figure numbering. Applicant respectfully requests approval of the corrected drawings and amended specification.

The Examiner rejected claims 2, 3, 5, 10, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as indefinite. Applicant has amended claims 2, 3, 5, and 10 to clarify the passages objected to by the Examiner. Applicant has also added new claims 16 and 17 to recite subject matter previously recited in claims 3 and 5. Claim 12 is no longer pending. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 2, 3, 5 and 10 comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

The Examiner indicated that claim 15 recites allowable subject matter. Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite the subject matter of claim 15 and claim 8, from which claim 15 depended. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1 and claims 2-7, 9-11, 13, 14, 16, and 17,

which depend from claim 1 are allowable.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 11, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by U.S. patent 1,438,876 to Thomas or U.S. patent 893,950 to Thomas. The Examiner rejected claims 3, 4, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thomas '876 or Thomas '950 in view of U.S. patent 2,329,388 to Brown. The Examiner rejected claims 6-8 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thomas '876 or Thomas '950 in view of U.S. patent 1,990,341 to Meyer. The Examiner rejected claims 5, 9, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thomas '876 or Thomas '950. These rejections are no longer relevant since only claims that recite subject matter indicated by the Examiner to be allowable are now pending. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of these rejections.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that this case is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of this application and early issuance of the notice of allowance.

If an interview would advance the prosecution of this case, Applicants urge the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge fee insufficiency and credit

overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 14, 2008

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